

**OLYMPIC COAST  
NATIONAL  
MARINE  
SANCTUARY  
ADVISORY  
COUNCIL**



**Alan Brooks, Chair**  
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**Marcy Golde, Secretary**

*Representation*

January 18, 2002

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*Washington State:*  
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*Dept. of Fish and Wildlife*  
*Dept. of Natural Resources*  
*Olympic National Park*  
*U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*  
*U.S. Coast Guard*

The Honorable Gary Locke, Governor  
Office of the Governor  
PO Box 40002  
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

The Honorable Sid Snyder, Majority Leader  
Washington State Senate  
P.O. Box 40419  
Olympia, WA 98504-0419

The Honorable Frank Chopp, Speaker  
Washington State House of Representatives  
PO Box 40600  
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

*Artwork:*  
*David*  
*Sones*

Dear Governor Locke, Senator Snyder, and Speaker Chopp:

The Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council believes that a major oil spill, either in the western Strait of Juan de Fuca or on the out coast of Washington, is the greatest single threat to the irreplaceable natural resources that the Sanctuary protects.

Oil spill response effectiveness in the Sanctuary is particularly challenging due to the rugged coastline and relatively high sea state prevalent in the Sanctuary. Therefore, we must do all we can do to prevent oil spills from occurring in the first place. The Neah Bay rescue tug has proven its value in preventing oil spill, particularly in the last few months. A dedicated vessel is necessary for this remote area because unencumbered tugs of opportunity are extremely rare west of Port Angeles and vessel casualties are largely unpredictable.

**Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary**

138 W. First St. • Port Angeles, WA 98362 • 360/457-6222 • email: [olympiccoast@noaa.gov](mailto:olympiccoast@noaa.gov)

We thank the Legislature for funding the Neah Bay rescue tug through the spring of 2002 and Governor Locke for including funding for the tug in his supplemental budget for Fiscal Year 2003. The rescue tug is vital to protecting the Sanctuary, coastal communities and their tourist businesses, the Olympic National Park with its thousands of visitors annually, and coastal tribal cultures and economies. People live and work in Washington because of the quality of life we enjoy here. Our natural environment is an essential part of that quality of life. The Neah Bay rescue tug is relatively cheap insurance to help ensure that our quality of life is not diminished by a major oil spill.

Therefore, we strongly urge the State of Washington to take whatever actions are necessary to maintain a dedicated rescue tug in Neah Bay.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alan B. Brooks". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid.

Alan Brooks  
Public Member and Chair

The views expressed are those of the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council and do not necessarily reflect the position of the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary and/or the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.